

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A medicine storing and dispensing apparatus ~~including~~comprising a cap feeding section, the cap feeding section comprising:

~~the cap feeding section including:~~ a cap container for storing a plurality of caps for closing openings of medicine containers, the cap container having~~and having~~ a slit formed at least in one location of a bottom surface of the cap container;

a first cap stirring member having a rotating shaft and~~which has~~ at least one stirring section protruding from the~~formed in a~~ rotating shaft, wherein the stirring section protrudes~~in a state of protruding~~ inside the cap container through the slit in the bottom surface of the cap container, wherein the stirring section~~and which~~ stirs the caps upon rotational driving of the rotating shaft~~by the stirring section through rotational driving~~; and

a cap path which continues to the cap container, and has a clearance that allows~~allowing~~ only one cap at a time to pass through, the cap path being~~and which~~ is inclined downward so as to align the passing caps.

2. (Currently Amended) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the cap container has an inclined surface inclined toward the rotating shaft of the cap stirring member, the inclined surface having the slit formed thereon~~each slit formed thereon~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the cap stirring member is structured so that the stirring section has a plurality of protruding sections placed on an outer circumferential section of the rotating shaft for allowing

stirring of the caps toward an upper side of the inclined surface through rotational driving of the rotating shaft.

4.(Previously Presented) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cap stirring member is structured so that the stirring section has a plurality of protruding sections placed in a spiral manner on an outer circumferential section of the rotating shaft for allowing movement of the caps from one end side to the other end side of the rotating shaft through rotational driving, and

wherein the cap pathway is placed on the other end side of the rotating shaft.

5. (Currently Amended) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second cap stirring member, wherein the first and second cap stirring members are positioned so as to be parallel to each other

~~wherein the cap stirring member is placed in a plurality of locations.~~

6. (Previously Presented) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cap pathway includes:

an inclined support section for supporting incoming caps by engaging with inner recess sections of the moving caps so as to further incline the inner recess sections in a case where the passing caps are positioned with the inner recess sections being oriented downward;

a cap detecting section for detecting the caps supported in an inclined state by the inclined support section;

extruding means for moving the caps by canceling an engaged state of the caps supported by the inclined support section based on a detection result by the cap detecting section; and
a cap direction changing section for changing a direction of the caps based on the detection result by the cap detecting section so as to orient the inner recess sections in an identical direction.

7. (Original) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to Claim 6,

wherein the cap pathway has a pair of chute rails placed at an interval smaller than an inner diameter of the inner recess sections of the caps, and

wherein the inclined support section is formed by cutting away a part of the chute rails.

8. (Currently Amended) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cap pathway is composed of a first cap pathway positioned on an upstream side of the cap direction changing ~~section~~section and a second cap pathway positioned on a downstream side of the cap direction changing section and placed orthogonal to the first cap pathway, and a cap direction changing section positioned between the first and second cap pathway,

wherein the cap direction changing section includes a rotatable body defining a guide pathway ~~provided in a way of allowing rotational driving for storing for receiving~~ the caps, which have moved through the first cap pathway, in an inclined state through a first opening on one end side of the guide pathway, and a guide plate for preventing the caps from dropping from a second opening on the other end side of the guide pathway, and

wherein when the rotatable body of the cap direction changing section is rotated so as to orient the second opening of the guide pathway obliquely downward, the guide plate is operated

to connect the second opening and the second cap pathway to permit ~~for allowing~~ movement of the caps.

9. (New) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein each of the stirring sections comprises a wire rod.

10. (New) The medicine storing and dispensing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of the stirring sections comprises a wire rod.